

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing caking tendency, dust formation, and and, foaming tendencies when in aqueous media, of urea granules, where the method ~~comprises~~ consists of adding a compound to the surface of the urea granules,

wherein the additive ~~comprises~~ consists of a carboxylic acid compound with the general formula XY-(Z)-COOH, in which Z is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon with 1-25 carbon atoms, and X and Y are selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom or a polar organic functional group, and wherein the additive is added as a solution in a polar solvent to the urea granulates, which are subsequently dried.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the polar solvent is water.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein Z has 2-5 carbon atoms.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the polar organic functional group is selected from the group consisting of a carboxylic acid group, a hydroxyl group, an amine group and an acetal group.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein X is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group and Y is a carboxylic acid group.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the solution has a concentration of 0.5-60 wt % of the carboxylic acid compound.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the concentration is 5-30 wt %.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein based upon the weight of urea, the concentration of the carboxylic acid compound is 100-10,000 ppm.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein during the addition of the solution the temperature of the urea is 30-90°C.

10. (Currently Amended) A urea granule ~~having~~ consisting of a compound of the general formula XY-Z-COOH, in which Z is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon with 1-25 carbon atoms, and X and Y are selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom and a polar organic functional group, on the surface of the granule.

11. (Previously Presented) The urea granule according to claim 10, wherein Z has 2-5 carbon atoms.

12. (Previously Presented) The urea granule according to claim 10, wherein the polar organic functional group is selected from the group consisting of a carboxylic acid group, a hydroxyl group, an amine group and an acetal group.

13. (Previously Presented) The urea granule according to claim 11, wherein X is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group and Y is a carboxylic acid group.

14. (Previously Presented) A urea granule produced by the method according to claim 1.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein based upon the weight of urea, the concentration of the carboxylic acid compound is 500-3,000 ppm.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein during the addition of the solution the temperature of the urea is 40-70°C.